

# MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

## DENTAL ASSISTANT

HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Dental Assistant Program is designed to prepare students to work successfully as a member of the dental team.

Dental Assistants can work in a variety of settings such as dental offices of general dentists and dental specialists, dental schools, private and government hospitals and clinics, state and local public health departments.

Upon completion of the program the dental assistant student will be prepared to:

Provide comprehensive dental assisting care to individuals from diverse socioeconomic, educational, and cultural backgrounds according to state regulations in a safe and ethical manner.

Assist in the clinical setting with dental treatment procedures while assuming responsibility for prevention of disease transmission in the work environment. Responsibilities include: using dental instruments and materials, taking and processing dental radiographs, taking impressions and performing many other dental procedures within the scope of dental assisting practice in the state of California.

Perform front office duties including communicating with patients, other health professionals, dental suppliers, business contacts and insurance companies, scheduling appointments, managing insurance and/or financial aspects of the dental practice and using dental management software systems.

The Dental Assistant curriculum is planned in sequence. Satisfactory completion of all courses with a grade of "C" or better in a given semester is required before the student may continue to the second semester of the Dental Assistant Program. All required courses in each semester are co-requisites and prerequisites for the subsequent semester. Students must satisfactorily complete all of the courses in the Dental Assistant Program according to the State of California Dental Practice Act guidelines for curriculum.

Upon completion of the program students will earn a Certificate of Achievement.

Students who wish to also obtain an Associate Degree in Dental Assisting may do so by completing all major requirements and general education courses (Plan B). It is recommended that students consult with the Counseling Office to develop a Student Educational Plan.

**NOTE:** In order to be admitted into the Dental Assistant Program, students must submit an application for admission directly to the Health Science Division. For additional information, application procedures, and entry requirements please contact a college counselor or call (310) 287-4464 or visit the West Los Angeles College website Health Science Division Dental Assistant Program at [www.wlac.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.wlac.edu/alliedhealth)

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

### MAJOR CODE 1240.10

*If you are accepted into the Dental Assisting program you will complete the following:*

The Associate in Science in Dental Assisting (ASDA) program provides students with a high quality education that prepares them to be highly competent, professional, and caring licensed dental assistants.

<u>A.S. DEGREE UNIT TOTALS</u>	<u>UNITS</u>
Required Major Courses (Certificate of Achievement in Dental Assisting)	29
Electives	9-10
Plan B General Education Requirements	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60-61</b>

# MAJOR REQUIREMENTS



## CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

MAJOR CODE 1240.10

### RECOMMENDED COURSE SEQUENCE

FALL	UNITS
D.A. 001 - Orientation to Dental Assisting	2
D.A. 005 - Preclinical Chairside Assisting	5
D.A. 007 - Infection Control for the Dental Setting	1
D.A. 008 - Introduction to Dental Radiology	3
D.A. 006 - Dental Sciences for the Dental Assistant	3
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER UNITS</b>	<b>13</b>
WINTER	UNITS
D.A. 010 - Intermediate Chairside Assisting	3
D.A. 003 - Dental Seminar	1
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER UNITS</b>	<b>4</b>
SPRING	UNITS
D.A. 009 - Medical Emergencies	2
D.A. 013 - Practice Management	2
D.A. 012 - Dental Assisting Clinical Science	3
D.A. 015 - Advanced Chairside Assisting	5
<b>TOTAL SEMESTER</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM UNITS</b>	<b>29</b>

9-10 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING	UNITS
Biology (3A & 3B)*	4
Cultural Anthropology 102*	3
Psychology 1*	3
HOC 62 Skill Set for the Health Care Professional	2
HOC 63 Basic Medical Terminology, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology	2
HOC 64 Cultural and Legal Topics for Health Care Professionals	1
HOC 65 Fundamentals for the Health Care Professional	2.5
<i>* Dental Hygiene pathway preferred courses</i>	
<b>TOTAL ELECTIVE UNITS</b>	<b>9-10</b>

PLAN B GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES	UNITS
A. Natural Sciences: Anatomy 1	4
B. Social and Behavioral Sciences: Political Science 1	3
C. Humanities: Art OR Theater	3
D. Language and Rationality: English 101 (3) AND Math 125 (5)	8
E. Health and Physical Education: Health 11(3) AND PE (1)	4
<b>TOTAL GENERAL EDUCATION UNITS</b>	<b>22</b>

*PLEASE NOTE: To complete the Associate Degree in Dental Assistant students must complete all of the program core requirements, electives, and general education courses (Plan B). It is recommended that students consult with the Counseling Office to develop a Comprehensive Student Educational Plan. (310) 287-7242*

### ATTENTION TRANSFER STUDENTS

NOTE: Students expecting to transfer to four-year institutions should see a West Los Angeles College counselor and consult the catalogs of transfer institutions regarding specific requirements for upper-division standing.

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

### DENTAL HYGIENE

HEALTH SCIENCES DIVISION

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *The Associate of Science (A.S.) degree described below will not offered after Spring 2017.*

**FIND THE BACHELOR'S OF SCIENCE program description, degree path and courses in the "Bachelor's Degree" section, after the "Courses" section.**

#### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE

##### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene is primarily designed for career and technical education and workforce training/ development. The curriculum is not aligned with course requirements for transfer to a specific major at a four-year college or university.

The dental hygienist, as a member of the dental health team, is qualified by education and license to provide primary care to patients for the maintenance of oral health and the prevention of oral disease. The purpose of medical and dental science is to enhance the health of individuals as well as populations. Dental hygienists use scientific evidence in the oral healthcare decision making process impacting their patient care. The dental hygienist is expected to respect the diverse values, beliefs and cultures present in individuals and groups or communities served. In working with patients, dental hygienists must support the right of the individual to have access to the necessary information and provide opportunities for dialogue to allow the individual patient to make informed care decisions without coercion. Facilitating effective communication may require an interpreter and/or translator based on the patient and practitioner's need to communicate. Dental hygienists must realize and establish their professional privileges in accordance with the rights of individuals and groups. In addition, when participating in activities where decisions are made that have an impact on health, dental hygienists are obligated to assure that ethical and legal issues are addressed as part of the decision-making process.

The Commission on Dental Accreditation accredits the Dental Hygiene program. The Commission is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Commission on Recognition of Post-Secondary Accreditation, and by the United States Department of Education. Admission to the Dental Hygiene program is by special selection. The admission requirements are available from the Counseling Office or the Dental Hygiene Department.

Dental Hygiene classroom and laboratory facilities are located on campus at West Los Angeles College. The students provide dental hygiene services to patients at the UCLA School of Dentistry, Veterans Hospital, MEND Dental Clinic, Children's Dental Center, and UCLA Venice Dental Clinic. Students also observe and participate in various special clinics at UCLA which include radiology, pedodontics, periodontics, oral surgery and hospital dentistry.

For more information, call (310) 287-4464 or visit the Allied Health website at [www.wlac.edu/Allied-Health/index.aspx](http://www.wlac.edu/Allied-Health/index.aspx) or come to the Dental Hygiene Office located in building MSB room 100.

The curriculum below is planned sequentially. Satisfactory completion of all courses with a grade of "C" or better in a given semester is required before the student may continue to the next semester in Dental Hygiene. All required course in each semester are co-requisites and prerequisites for the subsequent semester. Candidates for graduation must satisfactorily complete the Dental Hygiene Program according to the Commission on Dental Accreditation and the Dental Hygiene Committee of California's Guidelines for curriculum.

Upon completion of the program, students are eligible to take the Dental Hygiene National Board Examination, and upon satisfactory program completion, students are able to take the licensing board examination, and earn an Associates in Science Degree in Dental Hygiene.

*Note: Courses are open only to student accepted into the Dental Hygiene Program, who have completed all Plan B General Education Requirement for an Associate degree. The Health requirement is waived for the students accepted into the Dental Hygiene program. See a counselor for your Plan B general education requirements.*

# MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

## WLAC DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (PLOS)

The dental hygiene program will provide opportunities for the student to become competent through an active learning process of organizing, interpreting and synthesizing information. Educational activities will be provided that enable the learner to develop expertise by integrating fundamental knowledge, scientific principles and applied psychomotor skills. Upon graduation, the dental hygienist working under the supervision of a licensed dentist will be able to demonstrate the ability to:

### PLO I. Professionalism

The dental hygiene students must appreciate their role as health professionals at the local, state, and national levels. Students will demonstrate the necessary knowledge and values in legal regulations and ethical issues for the practice of dental hygiene.

#### Examples of Outcome Assessment:

1. National Board Exam Sores: Professional Responsibility and Liability section
2. State of California Law and Ethics for the RDH exam scores
3. E-Portfolio
4. Leadership and participation at Professional Organizations such as ADHA and CDHA

### PLO II. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

The dental hygiene students will demonstrate competency in the performance and delivery of oral health promotion and disease prevention service in public health, private practice and alternative settings. The dental hygiene students will be able to apply principles in assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation and evaluation of treatment. The graduate must also be prepared to influence others to facilitate access to care and services.

#### Examples of Outcome Assessment:

1. Research Projects (e.g. RAP, Perio, Table Clinic, ADPIE)
2. National Board Exam Scores: Community Health and Clinical Dental Hygiene section

### PLO-III. Patient Care

The students will demonstrate a through foundation in the biomedical, clinical, and behavioral sciences to achieve successful patient treatment outcomes. Student will utilize critical thinking and sound clinical judgment and cultural sensitivity with patients.

#### Examples of Outcome Assessment:

1. Research presentations and projects
2. Clinical Performance Summary – Product and Process Evaluations
3. Clinic Service Summary
4. E-portfolio – capstone project
5. Clinical Licensing Examination (State Board Exams, WREB exam)

*Approved by Dental Hygiene Faculty and Advisory Board 2015*

(Approved by the board on 4/15/15 & Approved by Faculty on 5/13/15)

REQUIRED COURSES for Program Admission		UNITS
CHEM 60	Introduction to General Chemistry	5
	OR	
CHEM 51	Fundamentals of Chemistry	5
MICRO 20	General Microbiology	4
ANATOMY 1	Introduction to Human Anatomy	4
PHYSIOL 1	Introduction to Human Physiology	4
ENGLISH 101	College Reading and Composition I	3
PSYCH 1	General Psychology I	3
SOC 1	Introduction to Sociology	3
SPEECH 101	Oral Communication I	3
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS</b>		<b>29</b>

\*Additional requirements for Bachelor degree in Dental Hygiene: Statistics, Critical Thinking, and Cultural Diversity courses in coordination with IGETC, CSU, and or GE completion requirements with upper division courses.

Effective Fall 2016, the Associate of Science degree program became a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene degree program. Additional requirements for entrance will be are required.

### ATTENTION TRANSFER STUDENTS

NOTE: Students expecting to transfer to four-year institutions should see a West Los Angeles College counselor and consult the catalogs of transfer institutions regarding specific requirements for upper-division standing.

# MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

## ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE DEGREE

### Dental Hygiene

MAJOR CODE: 1240.20

*(61 Units, Plan B) + All other West requirements for Associate Degree.*

REQUIRED COURSES SEMESTER 1	UNITS
DEN HY 100 Principles of Clinical Dental Hygiene	3
DEN HY 101 Clinical Dental Hygiene	2
DEN HY 104 Dental Morphology	2
DEN HY 105 General Pathology	2
DEN HY 106 Anatomy of the Head and Neck	2
DEN HY 109 Infection Control in Dentistry	1
DEN HY 150 Preventive Dentistry	2
DEN HY 212 Radiology I-Intro to Radiology	2
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS</b>	<b>15</b>

REQUIRED COURSES SEMESTER 2	UNITS
DEN HY 108 Introduction to Periodontics	2
DEN HY 151 Clinical Dental Hygiene II	3
DEN HY 152 Special Patient Care	1
DEN HY 153 Radiology II-Interpretation	1
DEN HY 154 Oral Pathology	2
DEN HY 156 Histology & Embryology of Oral Tissues	2
DEN HY 189 DH Developmental Clinic Seminar I	2
DEN HY 207 Pain Control	1
DEN HY 209 Pain Control Lab	1
DEN HY 256 Biochemical Nutrition	3
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS</b>	<b>18</b>

REQUIRED COURSES SEMESTER 3	UNITS
DEN HY 190 DH Developmental Clinic Seminar II	1
DEN HY 200 Cariology and Occlusion	1
DEN HY 201 Clinical Dental Hygiene III	4
DEN HY 204 Dental Health Education	1
DEN HY 205 Dental Health Education –Practicum	1
DEN HY 206 Periodontics	1
DEN HY 208 Pharmacology	3
DEN HY 215 Dental Material & Expanded Functions	3
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS</b>	<b>15</b>

REQUIRED COURSES SEMESTER 3	UNITS
DEN HY 191 DH Developmental Clinic Seminar III	1
DEN HY 210 Emergencies in Dental Practice	1
DEN HY 250 Advanced Periodontal Seminar	1
DEN HY 251 Clinical Dental Hygiene IV	5
DEN HY 252 Essentials of Dental Hygiene Practice	2
DEN HY 253 Community Dental Health	1
DEN HY 254 Community Dental Health –Practicum	1
DEN HY 260 Research Design and Methodology	1
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED UNITS</b>	<b>13</b>